

CLAIMS

I/We Claim:

1. A voltage-controlled oscillator, comprising:
 - a plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell having a plurality of outputs, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell further comprising:
 - a pair of source coupled nMOS transconductor transistors;
 - a bias transistor coupled between a ground voltage and the source coupled nMOS transconductor transistors;
 - a pair of varactors coupled to a control voltage and the pair of source coupled nMOS transconductor transistors;
 - a pair of drain coupled pMOS transistors, the pair of drain coupled pMOS transistors coupled between a supply voltage and the pair of source coupled nMOS transconductor transistors; and
 - a common mode feedback circuit, the common mode feedback circuit further comprising:
 - a resistive network, the resistive network having a plurality of coupled resistors, each resistor coupled to one of the plurality of outputs of each voltage-controlled oscillator cell; and
 - an op-amp, the op-amp connected to the resistive network, the op-amp generating an output voltage corresponding to a variance between the voltage-controlled oscillator cells and a reference voltage on a reference voltage output, the reference voltage output being coupled to each bias transistor in the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

2. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the pair of varactors are MOS voltage-controlled capacitors.

3. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the pair of varactors are p-n junction voltage-controlled capacitors.

4. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump circuit.

5. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a loop filter circuit.

6. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a phase frequency detector circuit.

7. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump coupled with a loop filter circuit coupled with a phase frequency detector circuit.

8. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 1, wherein the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells consists of three cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

9. A voltage-controlled oscillator, comprising:

- a plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell having at least one output, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell further comprising:
 - a first pair of coupled transistors;
 - a bias transistor coupled to the first pair of coupled transistors;

at least one voltage-controlled capacitor coupled to a control voltage
and to the first pair of coupled transistors; and
a second pair of coupled transistors, the second pair of coupled
transistors further coupled to the first pair of coupled
transistors.

10. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, further comprising:
a common mode feedback circuit, the common mode feedback circuit
further comprising:

a resistive network, the resistive network having a plurality of
coupled resistors, each resistor coupled to the at least one
output of each voltage-controlled oscillator cell; and
an op-amp, the op-amp connected to the resistive network, the op-
amp generating an output voltage corresponding to a
variance between the voltage-controlled oscillator cells and a
reference voltage on a reference voltage output, the
reference voltage output being coupled to each bias
transistor in the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled
oscillator cells.

11. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the pair of
varactors are MOS voltage-controlled capacitors.

12. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the pair of
varactors are p-n junction voltage-controlled capacitors.

13. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the control
voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump circuit.

14. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a loop filter circuit.

15. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a phase frequency detector circuit.

16. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump coupled with a loop filter circuit coupled with a phase frequency detector circuit.

17. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 9, wherein the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells consists of three cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

18. A method for reducing jitter in a voltage-controlled oscillator having a plurality of voltage-controlled oscillator cells, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell having a plurality of output voltage waveforms, the method comprising:

combining each of the output voltage waveforms to produce a combined waveform;

deriving a common mode feedback waveform from the combined waveform and from a reference waveform; and

transmitting the common mode feedback waveform to each of the plurality of voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

19. A voltage-controlled oscillator having a plurality of voltage-controlled oscillator cells, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell having a plurality of output voltage waveforms, comprising:

combining means for combining each of the output voltage waveforms to produce a combined voltage;

transistor in the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

22. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the pair of varactors are MOS voltage-controlled capacitors.

23. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the pair of varactors are p-n junction voltage-controlled capacitors.

24. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump circuit.

25. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a loop filter circuit.

26. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a phase frequency detector circuit.

27. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump coupled with a loop filter circuit coupled with a phase frequency detector circuit.

28. The voltage-controlled oscillator of claim 20, wherein the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells consists of three cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.

29. A high-speed serial data link semiconductor chip, comprising:
a voltage-controlled oscillator having a plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells, each voltage-controlled oscillator cell

33. The semiconductor chip of claim 29, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump circuit.

34. The semiconductor chip of claim 29, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a loop filter circuit.

35. The semiconductor chip of claim 29, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a phase frequency detector circuit.

36. The semiconductor chip of claim 29, wherein the control voltage is provided at least in part by a charge pump coupled with a loop filter circuit coupled with a phase frequency detector circuit.

37. The semiconductor chip of claim 29, wherein the plurality of cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells consists of three cascaded voltage-controlled oscillator cells.